

CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

27 March 2023

NYAS 'My things matter campaign' update

Reasons for the Report

1. The report aims to inform the Committee on the NYAS 'My things matter' campaign and requests for the Committee to recommend the Campaign to be recognised and endorsed by Cabinet.

Background

2. The National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS) is a national charity providing information, advice, advocacy, and legal representation to some of the most vulnerable children, young people and adults across the UK. NYAS Cymru is a registered provider of advocacy services under the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016 (RISCA 2016)..
3. NYAS Cymru is commissioned by Cardiff and the Vale local authorities to provide a regional advocacy service and an independent visiting service to children and young people in receipt of support from Children's Services.
4. NYAS Cardiff Advocacy Service offers independent professional advocacy (IPA) to children and young people age 0-25 who are involved with Cardiff Children's Services. The overall remit of the project is to enable and empower children and young people to have a voice and to effectively participate within decision making processes.

5. The service ensures that the rights of children and young people involved with Cardiff Children's Services are upheld in accordance with legislative and policy frameworks within Wales.
6. For more than 40 years, NYAS has provided independent advocacy support to care-experienced children and young people across England and Wales, empowering their wishes and feelings to be listened to and taken seriously by decision-makers. Every year, NYAS receives over 10,000 referrals to advocate for care-experienced children and young people, and we know that moving when in care can cause serious problems for many who contact NYAS. One in every three care-experienced children will move home this year. That is over 26,000 children in England and 2,200 children in Wales.
7. A national survey was undertaken to fully understand the impact of moving on those care experienced children and young people. When the move is in the best interest of the child, NYAS wants that experience to be as good as it can be. NYAS created the 'My Things Matter' campaign based on our research into what children and young people want to see improve when they move during their time in care.

Financial Implications

8. Prior to considering to sign up to My Things matter, consideration needs to be given to the funding source for any additional costs required to ensure that the commitments set out in the Campaign are achieved

Legal Implications

9. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is recommended to:

- 1) Provide comments and make observations to the My Things Matter Campaign
- 2) Recommend to Cabinet that Cardiff Council endorse the My Things Matter Campaign.

DEBORAH DRIFFIELD
Director of Children's Services
21 March 2022